

# Madsen conducts his last Town Hall with District employees

by Joan Mier

**B**rig. Gen. Peter Madsen, then Commander of the South Pacific Division, held his last Town Hall meeting with District employees May 23 following the Command Inspection, during which he presented Division coins to eight District employees. He also presented the Division Engineer's Award for excellence to Cumbre Construction Inc. for its work on the temporary housing in Los Alamos and to K.L. House Construction Co. for its work on the Theatre Air Command and Control Simulation Facility (TACCSF) at Kirtland Air Force Base. In addition, he talked about a variety of issues facing both the Corps and the Army.

Division coins were presented to *Gary Cornell*, for the logistical support he provided to members of the inspection team; *Dwayne Lillard* for managing an excellent dam safety program; *Royce Lackey* for his exceptional negotiating skills and work with 8(a) contractors; *Fritz Blake* for putting together a Project Delivery Team model that is a baseline for anyone who is part of a team; *Kent*

*Heyne* for his customer responsiveness on both large and small projects at Kirtland Air Force Base; *Dick Kreiner* and *Darrell Riekenberg* for their work on using limited water assets to satisfy consumption, recreation and endangered species; and *Jim White* for his efforts in the emergency

projects last summer in Los Alamos.

The general said the refreshed Corps of Engineers' Vision will chart our path for the next three to four years. He also told employees that the Army is going through a revolutionary

transformation process and the Corps must change along with it.

"We are in a recruiting war," Madsen told attendees. "The process is too slow and too cumbersome. At any given time, SPD has a 10 to fifteen percent job vacancy rate." One of the strengths of the Corps is the diversity of work it does and everyone needs to become involved in selling the organization to potential employees, he said.

Regarding retention, Madsen said it can no longer be taken for granted that someone who joins our organization will remain for 20 years.

"We need to work harder to keep them," he said. "It's all about how well you communicate with them and the kind of work environment you provide them."

The Army provides a great example for training excellence, Madsen said, and the Corps should strive to become a learning organization. He noted that SPD is the only Corps division to have a division-wide Leadership program.

Madsen spoke at length about Strategic Communication, acknowledging that the Corps has been the recipient of much bad publicity during the past year.

"We need to keep everyone informed of the great things we are doing to support the Nation," he said. "We also need to make sure we are also talking to those who are not our closest partners. Don't distance yourselves from them."○

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Photo by Derrick Johnson

**Brig. Gen. Peter Madsen, then Commander of the South Pacific Division, presents the Division Engineer's Award for Excellence to members of Cumbre Construction Inc. at his last Town Hall with District Employees May 23.**